NUMB. DVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Omnes autem & habentur & dicuntur Tyranni, qui poteſtate ſunt perpetua, in ea Civitate quæ libertate uſa eſt. Corn. Nepos.

Monday, October 13. 1712

THE following Letters complain of what I have frequently obſerved with very much Indignation; therefore ſhall give them to the Publick in the Words with which my Correſpondents, who ſuffer under the Hardſhips mentioned in them, deſcribe them.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'IN former Ages all Pretenſions to Dominion 'have been ſupported and ſubmitted to, 'either upon Account of Inheritance, Conqueſt, 'or Election; and all ſuch Perſons who have 'taken upon 'em any Soveraignty over their 'Fellow-Creatures upon any other Account, have 'been always call'd Tyrants, not ſo much be'cauſe they were guilty of any particular Barbari'ties, as becauſe every Attempt to ſuch a Superio'ty was in its Nature tyrannical. But there is a'nother Sort of Potentates who may with greater 'Propriety be call'd Tyrants than thoſe laſt menti'on'd, both as they aſſume a deſpotick Dominion 'over thoſe as free as themſelves, and as they ſup'port it by Acts of notable Oppreſſion and Injuſ'tice; and theſe are the Rulers in all Clubs and 'Meetings. In other Governments, the Puniſh'ments of ſome have been alleviated by the Re'wards of others; but what makes the Reign of 'theſe Potentates ſo particularly grievous, is, that 'they are exquiſite in puniſhing their Subjects, at 'the ſame Time they have it not in their Power to 'reward 'em. That the Reader may the better 'comprehend the Nature of theſe Monarchs, as 'well as the miſerable State of thoſe that are their 'Vaſſals, I ſhall give an Account of the King of 'the Company I am fallen into, whom for his par'ticular Tyranny I ſhall call *Dionyſius*; as alſo of 'the Seeds that ſprung up to this odd Sort of Em'pire.

'Upon all Meetings at Taverns, 'tis neceſſary 'ſome one of the Company ſhould take it upon 'him to get all Things in ſuch Order and Readi'neſs, as may contribute as much as poſſible to 'the Felicity of the Convention; ſuch as haſten'ing the Fire, getting a ſufficient Number of Can'dles, taſting the Wine with a judicious Smack, 'fixing the Supper, and being briſk for the Diſ'patch of it. Know then that *Dionyſius* went thro' 'theſe Offices with an Air that ſeem'd to expreſs a 'Satisfaction rather in ſerving the Publick, than in 'gratifying any particular Inclination of his own: 'We thought him a Perſon of an exquiſite Palate, 'and therefore by Conſent beſeech'd him to be al'ways our Proveditor; which Poſt, after he had han[illegible]mly denied, he could do no otherwiſe than 'accept. At firſt he made no other uſe of his 'Power than in recommending ſuch and ſuch 'Things to the Company, ever allowing theſe 'Points to be diſputable; inſomuch that I have of'ten carried the Debate for Partridge, when his 'Majeſty has given Intimation of the high Reliſh 'of Duck, but at the ſame Time has chearfully 'ſubmitted, and devour'd his Partridge with moſt 'gracious Reſignation. This Submiſſion on his 'Side naturally produc'd the like on ours; of 'which he in a little Time made ſuch barbarous 'Advantage, as in all thoſe Matters which be'fore ſeem'd indifferent to him, to iſſue out certain 'Edicts as uncontroulable and unalterable as the 'Laws of the *Medes* and *Perſians*. He is by turns out'ragious, peeviſh, froward, and jovial. He thinks it 'our Duty for the little Offices, as Proveditor, that 'in Return all Converſation is to be interrupted 'or promoted by his Inclination for or againſt the 'preſent Humour of the Company. We feel at pre'ſent, in the utmoſt Extremity, the Inſolence of 'Office; however, I being naturally warm, ven'tur'd

‘ dar I to oppoſe him in a Diſpute about a Haunch ‘ of Veniſon. I was altogether for Roaſting, but ‘ *Dionyſius* declared himſelf for Boiling with ſo ‘ much Proweſs and Reſolution, that the Cook ‘ thought it neceſſary to conſult his own Safety, ‘ rather than the Luxury of my Propoſition. ‘ With the ſame Authority that he orders what we ‘ ſhall eat and drink, he alſo commands us where ‘ to do it, and we change our Taverns according ‘ as he ſuſpects any Treaſonable Practices in the ‘ ſettling the Bill by the Maſter, or ſees any bold ‘ Rebellion in point of Attendance by the Waiters. ‘ Another Reaſon for changing the Seat of Em- ‘ pire I conceive to be the Pride he takes in the ‘ Promulgation of our Slavery, tho' we pay out ‘ Club for our Entertainments even in theſe Pa- ‘ laces of our Grand Monarch. When he has a ‘ mind to take the Air, a Party of us are command- ‘ ed out by way of Life-Guard, and we march un- ‘ der as great Reſtrictions as they do. If we meet ‘ a neighbouring King, we give or keep the Way ‘ according as we are out-number'd or not; and if ‘ the Train of each is equal in Number, rather ‘ than give Battle, the Superiority is ſoon adjuſted ‘ by a Deſertion from one of 'em.

‘ Now, the Expulſion of theſe unjuſt Rulers ‘ out of all Societies would gain a Man as ever- ‘ laſting a Reputation, as either of the *Brutus's* ‘ got from their Endeavours to extirpate Tyranny ‘ from among the *Romans*. I confeſs my ſelf to be ‘ in a Conſpiracy againſt the Uſurper of our Club; ‘ and to ſhew my Reading, as well as my merciful ‘ Diſpoſition, ſhall allow him till the Ides of *March* ‘ to dethrone himſelf. If he ſeems to affect Em- ‘ pire till that Time, and does not gradually recede ‘ from the Incurſions he has made upon our Liber- ‘ties, he ſhall find a Dinner dreſs'd which he has ‘ no Hand in, and ſhall be treated with an Or- ‘ der, Magnificence, and Luxury, as ſhall break ‘ his proud Heart; at the ſame Time that he ſhall ‘ be convinced in his Stomach he was unfit for his ‘ Poſt, and a more mild and ſkilful Prince receive ‘ the Acclamations of the People, and be ſet up ‘ in his Room; but, as *Milton* ſays,

——Theſe Thoughts
Full Counſel muſt mature. Peace is deſpair'd,
And who can think Submiſſion? War then, War
Open, or underſtood, muſt be reſolv'd.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

‘ I Am a young Woman at a Gentleman's Seat in ‘ the Country, whoſe a particular Friend of ‘ my Father's, and came hither to paſs away a ‘ Month or two with his Daughters. I have been ‘ entertained with the utmoſt Civility by the whole ‘ Family, and nothing has been omitted which ‘ can make my Stay eaſy and agreeable on the Part ‘ of the Family: But there is a Gentleman here, ‘ a Viſitant as I am, whoſe Behaviour has given me ‘ great Uneaſineſſes. When I firſt arrived here he ‘ uſed me with the utmoſt Complaiſance; but, ‘ forſooth, that was not with Regard to my Sex, ‘ and ſince he has no Deſigns upon me, he does not ‘ know why he ſhould diſtinguiſh me from a Man ‘ in things indifferent. He is, you muſt know, one ‘ of thoſe familiar Coxcombs, who have obſerved ‘ ſome well-bred Men with a good Grace converſe ‘ with Women, and ſay no fine things, but yet treat ‘ them with that ſort of Reſpect which flows from ‘ the Heart and the Underſtading, but is exerted ‘ in no Profeſſions or Compliments. This Puppy, ‘ to imitate this Excellence, or avoid the contrary ‘ Fault of being troubleſome in Complaiſance, ‘ takes upon him to try his Talent upon me, in ſo ‘ much that he contradicts me upon all Occaſions, ‘ and one Day told me I lied. If I had ſtuck him ‘ with my Bodkin, and behaved my ſelf like a ‘ Man, ſince he won't treat me as a Woman, I had, ‘ I think, ſerved him right. I wiſh, Sir, you would ‘ pleaſe to give him ſome Maxims of Behaviour in ‘ theſe Points, and reſolve me if all Maids are not ‘ in Point of Converſation to be treated by all Bat- ‘chelours as their Miſtreſſes? If not ſo, are they ‘ not to be uſed as gently as their Siſters? Is it ſuf- ‘ferable, that the Fop of whom I complain ſhould ‘ ſay, as he would rather have ſuch a one without ‘ a Groat, than me with the *Indies*? What Right ‘ has any Man to make Suppoſitions of things not ‘ in his Power, and then declare his Will to the ‘ diſlike of one that has never offended him? I ‘ aſſure you theſe are things worthy your Conſide- ‘ration, and I hope we ſhall have your Thoughts ‘ upon them. I am, tho' a Woman juſtly offend- ‘ed, ready to forgive all this, becauſe I have no ‘ Remedy but leaving very agreeable Company ‘ ſooner than I deſire. This alſo is an heinous ‘ Aggravation of his Offence, that he is inflicting ‘ Baniſhment upon me. Your printing this Letter ‘ may perhaps be an Admonition to reform him: ‘ Aſſoon as it appears I will write my Name at the ‘ End of it, and lay it in his Way; the making ‘ which juſt Reprimand I hope you will put in the ‘ Power of,

SIR,

Your conſtant Reader,
and humble Servant.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Monday, being the 13th of October, will be preſented a Comedy call'd, The Committee, or, The Faithful Iriſhman. The Part of Ruth by Mrs Mountfort, Arabella by Mrs Porter, Mrs. Day by Mrs. Powell, Careleſs by Mr. Wilks, Blunt by Mr. Mills, Teague by Mr. Bowen, Mr. Day by Mr. Pinkethman, Obadiah by Mr. Johnſon, Bookſeller by Mr. Norris. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Wedneſday, the 15th Inſtant, at Loyd's Coffee-Houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 5 in the Afternoon preciſely (only one Hhd in a Lot) 80 Hhds of excellent New French Clarets, of the very laſt Vintage, viz Margaux, Obrion, and other of the beſt growths of France; deep, bright, ſtrong, freſh, with the true Leaf, fine rack'd, neat, and fit for preſent Bottling, Imported by Meſſieurs Tourron and Gaſſier; now under their Dwelling Houſe in Mark-lane in Fenchurch ſtreet. To be be ſeen and taſted this Day and to Morrow from 8 to 1, and from 2 to 6, and all Wedneſday (as above) till the time of Sale. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Brooker in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

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